

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2224

Introduced by Assembly Member De La Torre

February 20, 2008

An act to add Section 326 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2224, as amended, De La Torre. ~~Renewable energy resources: California Solar and Clean Energy Jobs Initiative. California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative of 2008.~~

The California Constitution establishes the Public Utilities Commission, with jurisdiction over all public utilities. The California Constitution grants the commission certain general powers over all public utilities, subject to control by the Legislature, and authorizes the Legislature, unlimited by the other provisions of the Constitution, to confer additional authority and jurisdiction upon the commission, that is cognate and germane to the regulation of public utilities.

The Public Utilities Act imposes various duties and responsibilities on the Public Utilities Commission with respect to the purchase of electricity and requires the commission to review and adopt a procurement plan and a renewable energy procurement plan for each electrical corporation pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program. In a decision, the commission adopted the California Solar Initiative to provide incentives to customer-side photovoltaics and solar thermal electric projects under one megawatt. Existing law requires the commission, in implementing the California Solar Initiative, as defined, to authorize the award of monetary incentives for up to the

first megawatt of alternating current generated by a solar energy system, as defined, that meets eligibility criteria established by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission). Existing law requires the commission, in consultation with the Energy Commission, to administer, until January 1, 2012, a self-generation incentive program for distributed generation resources that is applicable to customers of electrical corporations.

~~This bill would require the commission, in consultation with the Energy Commission and the Contractors' State License Board, to develop and implement the California Solar and Clean Energy Jobs Initiative to (1) create a standardized curriculum and training program for installers of solar energy systems eligible for ratepayer-funded incentives pursuant to the California Solar Initiative, distributed generation systems eligible for the self-generation incentive program, and eligible renewable energy resources, and interconnections to the distribution and transmission grid, and (2) provide information, guidance, and assistance to educational institutions and nonprofit charitable organizations to assist those entities in setting up training programs utilizing the standardized curriculum Labor and Workforce Development Agency to, by July 1, 2009, create the California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative of 2008 to establish standardized curriculum for use at schools and provide outreach, assistance, and guidance to schools on creating clean energy training programs, as provided.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 2 *following:*
- 3 (a) *It is the goal of the state to reduce global warming pollution*
- 4 *to 1990 levels by 2020, in part through clean energy technologies.*
- 5 (b) *It is also the goal of the state to install one million solar*
- 6 *energy systems with a generation capacity equivalent of 3,000*
- 7 *megawatts, to establish a self-sufficient solar industry in which*
- 8 *solar energy systems are a viable mainstream option for both*
- 9 *homes and businesses in 10 years, and to place solar energy*
- 10 *systems on 50 percent of new homes in 13 years.*

1 (c) It is also the goal of the state to increase energy efficiency
2 and other clean renewable energy resources such as solar hot
3 water technologies, wind turbine, and zero energy buildings.

4 (d) To accomplish this goal, the state will need thousands of
5 new, highly trained workers including system installers,
6 contractors, inspectors, teachers, and trainers working throughout
7 the state.

8 (e) Clean energy industries can bring long-term economical
9 vitality and development to California's cities and rural areas.

10 (f) It is the goal of the state to make training programs at
11 technical and vocational schools, skills centers, high schools, and
12 community colleges, among others, accessible and available to
13 all Californians, including those most in need, such as
14 economically depressed urban and rural areas.

15 SEC. 2. Section 326 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
16 read:

17 326. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following
18 definitions apply:

19 (1) "Clean energy" means energy derived through the use of
20 energy efficient technologies, and renewable energy technologies
21 that meet the requirements of the California Renewables Portfolio
22 Standard Program, including, but not limited to, solar energy
23 systems and solar water heating systems.

24 (2) "Curriculum" means complete courses of study that cover
25 those components necessary to effectively and safely install,
26 inspect, or repair clean energy systems, and teach others how to
27 do so and includes, but need not be limited to, all of the following:

28 (A) Theory.

29 (B) Safety.

30 (C) Terminology.

31 (D) Codes and guidelines.

32 (E) Mathematics.

33 (F) Site evaluation and sales.

34 (G) Cost estimating.

35 (H) Product knowledge.

36 (I) Structural considerations.

37 (J) Handling and mounting techniques.

38 (K) Job site competencies.

39 (L) Permitting.

40 (M) State rebates and guidelines.

- 1 (N) *System analysis.*
2 (O) *Trouble shooting and repair.*
3 (3) *For the purposes of paragraph (2), “inspect” means a*
4 *standard course of study that covers all aspects of inspecting a*
5 *clean energy system by both visual and electronic meter testing*
6 *and includes, but is not necessarily limited to, all of the following:*
7 (A) *Code compliance.*
8 (B) *Structural components.*
9 (C) *Electrical connections and devices.*
10 (D) *Grounding.*
11 (E) *Performance standards.*
12 (F) *Workmanship.*
13 (G) *Safety.*
14 (4) *For the purposes of paragraph (2), “install” means a*
15 *standard course of study that covers the training, skills, and*
16 *competencies required to safely install clean energy systems that*
17 *comply with safety, structural, and electrical codes, state and local*
18 *codes, and public utility requirements.*
19 (5) *For the purposes of paragraph (2), “site evaluation and*
20 *sales” means a uniform course of study that covers the skills and*
21 *competencies necessary to conduct an accurate site evaluation,*
22 *including, but not necessarily limited to, all of the following:*
23 (A) *Specify components.*
24 (B) *Preparing bid documents.*
25 (C) *Preparing cost estimates.*
26 (D) *Public relations.*
27 (E) *Sales.*
28 (6) *“Schools” means technical and vocational schools,*
29 *community colleges and universities, high schools, and other public*
30 *and private educational institutions operating in the state.*
31 (7) *“Solar energy system” means a solar energy device that*
32 *has the primary purpose of providing for the collection and*
33 *distribution of solar energy for the generation of electricity, that*
34 *produces at least one kilowatt, and not more than five megawatts,*
35 *alternating current rated peak electricity, and that meets or exceeds*
36 *the eligibility criteria established pursuant to Section 25782 of the*
37 *Public Resources Code.*
38 (8) *“Solar water heating system” means a solar energy device*
39 *that has the primary purpose of reducing demand for natural gas*
40 *or electricity through water heating, space heating, or other*

1 *methods of capturing energy from the sun to reduce energy*
2 *consumption in a building.*

3 *(b) The commission, in consultation with the Labor and*
4 *Workforce Development Agency shall, by July 1, 2009, create the*
5 *California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative of*
6 *2008 to do all of the following:*

7 *(1) Establish standardized curriculum for use at schools.*

8 *(2) Provide outreach, assistance, and guidance to schools on*
9 *creating clean energy training programs.*

10 *(c) The commission shall do all of the following:*

11 *(1) Ensure full participation of all stakeholders, including, but*
12 *not limited to, federal, state, and local government agencies*
13 *including, but not limited to, the State Department of Education,*
14 *labor organizations, including, but not limited to, teachers, building*
15 *trades, and electricians, joint labor-management training*
16 *programs, workforce investment boards, utilities, public or private*
17 *employers, industry, including, but not limited to, the solar and*
18 *other renewable energy technology industries, educational*
19 *institutions, small businesses, cooperatives, qualified service and*
20 *conservation corps, and nonprofit and community-based*
21 *organizations.*

22 *(2) Ensure full participation from private industry including*
23 *encouraging the commitment of funds by private industry for*
24 *training programs intended to meet the state's workforce needs*
25 *within the clean energy markets.*

26 *(3) Collaborate with all stakeholders described in paragraph*
27 *(1) to disseminate information on successful innovations for labor*
28 *market services and worker training with respect to clean energy*
29 *technologies.*

30 *(4) Encourage training programs that demonstrate all of the*
31 *following:*

32 *(A) Experience in implementing and operating worker skills*
33 *training and education.*

34 *(B) The ability to identify and target populations of individuals*
35 *who would benefit from training and be actively involved in*
36 *activities related to solar energy, renewable energy industries,*
37 *and energy efficiency.*

38 *(C) The ability to help individuals achieve economic*
39 *self-sufficiency.*

(5) *Ensure that the curriculum developed pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) includes the most relevant portions of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) training programs and Article 690 of the National Electrical Code for inspectors, and, where appropriate, training programs developed by others including nonprofit organizations, schools, and labor unions.*

(6) *Ensure that the California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative of 2008 is accessible, available, and affordable to all Californians and that it especially serve economically depressed urban and rural communities including, but not limited to, all of the following:*

(A) *Workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy.*

(B) *Individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.*

(C) *Veterans or past and present members of reserve components of the Armed Forces.*

(D) *Unemployed individuals.*

(E) *Individuals, including at-risk youth, seeking employment pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency.*

(F) *Formerly incarcerated, adjudicated, nonviolent offenders.*

(d) *In adopting and implementing the California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative of 2008, the commission shall not assess or establish any new fees, surcharges, rates, or any other charges on ratepayers.*

~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:~~

~~(a) The state requires a large, well-trained, and skilled workforce to meet the need for clean, renewable energy, including meeting the goals of the California Solar Initiative.~~

~~(b) Currently, there are not enough qualified contractors, inspectors, installers, or instructors to meet the state's future needs.~~

~~(c) To maintain the state's position as a world leader in clean energy and to ensure that the state meets its clean energy goals, a comprehensive standardized training program should be affordable and available to all.~~

~~(d) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a comprehensive training and certification program for solar and alternative energy applications, utilizing a standardized curriculum for consistency,~~

1 ~~that addresses the shortage of qualified contractors, installers,~~
2 ~~inspectors, and teachers.~~

3 ~~SEC. 2. Section 326 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to~~
4 ~~read:~~

5 ~~326. The commission, in consultation with the State Energy~~
6 ~~Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the~~
7 ~~Contractors' State License Board, shall develop and implement~~
8 ~~the California Solar and Clean Energy Jobs Initiative to do both~~
9 ~~of the following:~~

10 ~~(a) Create a standardized curriculum and training program for~~
11 ~~installers of solar energy systems eligible for ratepayer funded~~
12 ~~incentives pursuant to the California Solar Initiative, distributed~~
13 ~~generation systems eligible for the self-generation incentive~~
14 ~~program, and eligible renewable energy resources, and~~
15 ~~interconnections to the distribution and transmission grid.~~

16 ~~(b) Provide information, guidance, and assistance to educational~~
17 ~~institutions and nonprofit charitable organizations to assist those~~
18 ~~entities in setting up training programs utilizing the standardized~~
19 ~~curriculum.~~